steps to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Lalgola under the name of 'Siraj Express' in the morning as there is not a single fast train available;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to introduce an express train in the morning from Sealdah to Lalgola. Two pairs of passenger services in the morning from Sealdah cater to the traffic towards Lalgola.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

Foreign Loan

258. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nagarjuna Power Corporation Limited plans to raise 2.500 crore through foreign loan for its power projects;

(b) if so, whether the foreign loan would be raised from export credit agencies of UK, Japan, Korea, US and France;

(c) if so, the rate of interest on the loan;

(d) the time by which the financial closer of the project is likely to be completed;

(e) the total power to be generated from this project;

(f) whether Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd. has shortlisted Twelve companies for import of coal;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(h) the time by which the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Nagarjun Power Corporation Limited (NPCL) proposes to set up a coal fired thermal power plant near Mangalore in Karnataka. For this project, the company has proposed to take recourse to foreign loans. However, the financial package has not yet been firmed-up by the project promoters.

(d) The financial closure of private sector power projects could be achieved only after all the necessary inputs/linkages and clearances including the techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority have been tied up.

(e) The project envisages a capacity of 1000 MW.

(f) and (g) The Company informed in May, 1997 that a press notification had been issued for prequalifying parties for importing coal in response to which about 20 parties responded.

(h) The completion of the project is conditional to tying up of the required inputs/linkages and obtaining necessary clearances and achieving financial closure.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for Mining

259. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the places where mining has been going up in Uttar Pradesh for the last three years till date;

(b) the details of the achievement made in this regard;

(c) whether any technical assistance has been sought or proposed to be sought from some foreign institutions for mining work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the names of the foreign companies from which assistance has been sought ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) As per information available, production of silica sand, magnesite, diaspore & pyrophyllite have registered an increasing trend during the last three years. The details of achievements of increasing trend of production of these minerals are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) It is reproted that M/s. Uttar Pradesh State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., is setting up a silica sand beneficiation unit at Lalapur village, Allahabad district in colloboration with M/s. Hepworth Minerals & Chemicals Ltd., U.K.

Statement

(Value in Rs. '000)

Mineral	District	Unit	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97 (Provisional)	
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Silica Sand	Allahabad	Tonne	55244	3450	66839	5031	79412	7203
	Banda	Tonne	6823	374	5481	287	2035	81
	Total		62067	3824	72320	5318	81447	7284
Magnesite	Almora	Tonne	25214	22699	30615	27707	32860	29738
	Pithorgarh	Tonne	24902	9538	31000	15888	43358	24022
	Total		50116	32237	61615	43595	76218	53760
Diaspore	Hamirpur	Tonne	250	88	742	371	35	35
	Jhansi	Tonne	601	658	479	599	395	323
	Lalitpur	Tonne	5077	5994	3880	3615	6012	8643
	Total		5928	6740	5101	4585	6442	9001
Pyrophyllite	Hamirpur	Tonne	1210	363	2729	819	7324	2197
	Jhansi	Tonne	2334	840	3425	1675	2369	3102
	Lalitpur	Tonne	1800	517	1320	548	3129	1782
	Total		5344	1720	7474	3042	12822	5081

[English]

Construction of Railway Line from Bangaon to Petrapole

260. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken up the construction of railway line from Bangaon to Petrapole for running of trains between India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Survey for restoration of railway line from Bangaon to Petrapole for running of trains between India and Bangladesh has been taken up.

Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Mining Lease

261. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether number of proposals for grant of mining lease are pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(c) the details of mining lease granted to private/ foreign parties under the new mining policy during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(d) whether some proposals for grant of mining lease to private parties in Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of the Government; and